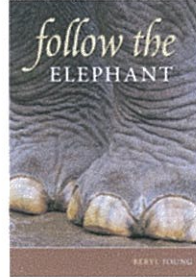


# Follow the Elephant

By Beryl Young



*A book report by Omar*

**Follow the Elephant** is a book about a boy who is dragged along to India with his grandmother to find her long-lost pen pal, Shanti Mukherjee. They lost touch with each other many years ago. In India, they go to the Central Registry Office in Delhi to try and find Shanti's address. Meanwhile, Ben finds a school site for Calcutta Girls Senior, where Shanti used to go and leaves a message but doesn't tell Norah. In their quest to find Shanti they go to Varanasi where they meet a Canadian couple who recommend they visit the Bay of Bengal for their last days in India. There, Ben makes a new friend. Then when Norah gets sick and has to go to hospital, there is a new turn of events.

My favourite character is Norah, because she may be a bit cranky at times but she is really quite sensible and has good intentions. My favourite part was when Norah and Shanti discovered it was actually a postal strike that made them lose touch because it also made them realize why they thought they lost touch. I also thought that when they see the corpse burning is a very powerful moment for Ben because it triggered thoughts about his father's death. I would give this book a 10/10. I liked the way elephants were included in the story and I enjoyed learning about the different Hindu gods. I'm glad Norah and Ben didn't just find Shanti in Varanasi because that would have been too simple. I also thought it was an interesting story because it did not really have a villain. I have also never read a book like this before so it was a great new experience for me. I would definitely recommend **Follow the Elephant**. It is a great book to learn about India and it makes me want to go there.